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Case No: YAMAP0776US

JUN 30 2005

PATENT

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Trademark Office to the Attention of Examiner Dac V. Ha.


Mark D. SaralinoJune 30, 2005
Date**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Tomoko SOGABE et al.

Serial No.: 09/943,470

Filing Date: August 30, 2001

For: REPRODUCTION APPARATUS, REPRODUCTION METHOD,
PROGRAM, AND RECORDING MEDIUM

Examiner: Dac V. Ha

Art Unit: 2634

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPLICANTS' COMMENTS ON THE REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

The following comments are directed to the Notice of Allowance mailed June 10,
2005, for which payment of the issue fee is due by September 10, 2005.

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Applicants note that the Examiner in the statement of reasons for allowance apparently intended to address the elements from each of the independent claims 2, 5, 6, 8-10, 15 and 20-22.

However, for independent claim 6, the Examiner recites the language "wherein, when the first synchronization signal among the series of N synchronization signal exists within the predetermined search area, the input signal determination section determines that the input signal is an encoded digital sound signal". This feature, in fact, pertains to independent claim 8.

The feature relevant to independent claim 6, for which the applicants believe the Examiner may have intended to recite, is as follows: "wherein: the input signal includes a variable-length frame including a header portion and a data portion; and the input signal determination section modifies the predetermined search area based on a value of a bit rate of the header section and at least one of data which indicates a state of the frame of the header portion except for the value of the bit rate of the header section so as to determine whether or not a synchronization section exists within the modified predetermined search area".

Applicants merely want to clarify the language of claim 6 so as to avoid any confusion. Claim 6 is believed to be allowable based on the particular features recited therein, not based on the erroneously recited language from claim 8.


Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

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Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP


Mark D. Saralino
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DATE: June 30, 2005

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